

P.O. Box 1015
Franklin, LA 70538

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G

CAMPAIGN FINANCE DIVISION

☒ **WAIVER REQUEST**
☐ **RECONSIDERATION REQUEST**

DATE: 8/25/2021
DOCKET #:

FILER INFORMATION

Name: Blaise W. Smith
Office: Sheriff
Parish: ST. MARY
Election Date: 10/12/2019
Level of Office: District

REPORT INFORMATION

Name of Report: 10-G
Original Due Date: 11/6/2019
Date Filed: 11/19/2019
Activity Receipts: \$6,300.00
Expenditures: \$10,591.74
Funds at Close of Reporting Period: \$4,724.59

LATE FEE INFORMATION

Amount of Late Fee: \$780
Days Late: 13
Late Fee Order Received:
Payment/Waiver Request Due Date: 1/1/3000
Waiver Request Received:
Additional Information Requested:

- Medical
- Financial
- Other

COMMENTS: Blaise W. Smith submitted a waiver and states the following: He asking that the Late Fee of \$780.00 be Waived due to not receiving notice until 19 months later, my apologies to the Board of Ethics in the dates being mixed up. He received the new notice July 16, 2021, 14 days after being notified of this issue in a phone conversation with staff.

OTHER LATE FEE INFORMATION

Campaign Finance:

Other Outstanding Reports: No
Other Outstanding Late Fees: No
Prior Late Fees: No
Reassessed Late Fees: No

Disclosure Statements:

Other Outstanding Late Fees: No
Prior Late Fees: No

Blaise W. Smith, Campaign

**P. O. Box 1015
Franklin, La 70538**

July 19, 2021

**Attention Louisiana Board of Ethics
P. O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, La 70821**

Re: Requesting a Waiver of this Late Fee Assessment for October 12, 2019

10-G Campaign Finance Discloser report filed 13 Days late.


To: Louisiana Board of Ethics

On November 19, 2019, this report was filed 7 days with the online Filing Electronically. Looking back at the schedule the due date was November 6, 2019, not November 19, 2019. On June 25, 2021, I was made aware that this letter had been returned to the Ethics Board by the postal service. The issue is 19 months late finding out I owe late fees in the amount \$780.00 from October 12, 2019.

On June 25, 2021 speaking with Ms. Melissa Horne with the Board of Ethics on the phone about another issue is when I was made aware about this matter and asked for the letter to be re-sent so I can clear up these matters. I'm asking that the Late Fee of \$780.00 be Waived due to not receiving notice until 19 months later, my apologies to the Board of Ethics in the dates being mixed up. I received the new notice July 16, 2021, 14 days after being notified of this issue in a phone conversation with Ms. Melissa.

In the future I would like to be notified by Certified Mail and Email. The email addresses are as follow sheriff@stmaryso.com & wronald225@gmail.com

Attached: Copy Schedule of Reporting and Filing Dates


**Blaise W. Smith,
Sheriff, St. Mary Parish**

STANDARD RECD
JUL 21 21-08157



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
P. O. BOX 4368
BATON ROUGE, LA 70821
(225) 219-5600
FAX: (225) 381-7271
1-800-842-6630
www.ethics.la.gov

RECEIVED
7-16-21

July 8, 2021

Blaise W. Smith
P.O. Box 1015
Franklin, LA 70538

CERTIFIED MAIL

NO. 70201290000106679156

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

RE: Late fee assessment for the October 12, 2019 Election
10-G Campaign Finance Disclosure Report filed 13 days late

Dear Blaise W. Smith:

Enclosed is an assessment of a late fee pursuant to La R.S. 18:1505.4 and La. R.S. 18:1511.4.1. Please submit a check or money order in the amount of \$780 payable to the Treasurer of the State of Louisiana to P. O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821. Please note that late fees can only be paid by the candidate or by his campaign.

You have 20 days from receipt of this letter to dispute this assessment. You may elect to do either or both of the following:

1. You may submit your request for a waiver to the attention of the Louisiana Board of Ethics.

Waivers are handled by the Ethics Board. The Board of Ethics may reduce, suspend, or decline to waive a late fee assessment based on the cause shown by the person, candidate, or political committee. If you submit a request for a waiver of the late fee to the Board of Ethics, your request should contain details as to why, in your opinion, you have good cause why your report was not timely filed. Also, if you would like to appear before the Board of Ethics in connection with your request, you should state that in your letter. The request should be submitted to the attention of the Board of Ethics at the following address: P. O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821 or fax at (225) 381-7271.

2. You may appeal the assessment directly to the Ethics Adjudicatory Board (EAB).

Appeals to the EAB are proceedings before a three judge panel. The determination is made regarding whether the person, candidate, or political committee was required to file the report and whether the report was filed late. **Mitigating factors are not considered during an EAB proceeding. The EAB does not have the authority to reduce, suspend, or waive a late fee assessment.** If you choose to appeal the assessment to the EAB, you should submit your request for an appeal to the attention of the Executive Secretary of the Louisiana Board of Ethics at P. O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821 or fax at (225)381-7271.

If you timely submit a waiver request or appeal, your name will not be posted on the website pending the result of your appeal. Furthermore, if you request an appearance, you will be notified of the place and time prior to the meeting.

If you do not pay or dispute the assessment of the late fee within 20 days from the receipt of this letter, the matter will be forwarded to the Attorney General's Office to pursue collection. If the matter is forwarded to the Attorney General's Office for collection, you may be responsible for all additional costs incurred. Additionally, late fees not paid by the due date will be posted on the agency website.

You should be aware that unpaid campaign finance fines, fees or penalties may have an adverse effect on your ability to run for public office in the future, as the Board of Ethics will object to your future qualifications for candidacy for public office pursuant to La. R.S. 18:491 and R.S. 18:492.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Melissa Horn

STATE OF LOUISIANA LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
acting in its capacity as the
SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOSURE

In Re: Blaise W. Smith
October 12, 2019 Election

LATE FEE ASSESSMENT ORDER

WHEREAS, Blaise W. Smith, in his capacity as a candidate for Sheriff in the October 12, 2019 election was required to file campaign finance reports pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1484.


WHEREAS, La. R.S. 18:1505.1 provides that it is a violation of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act to fail to timely file campaign finance reports.

WHEREAS, in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1495.4B(5), Blaise W. Smith was required to file a 10th Day Prior to General Report (10-G) by November 6, 2019. Blaise W. Smith filed the report on November 19, 2019 and was 13 days late.

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 18:1505.4A(2)(a)(ii) provides that an automatic late fee of \$60 per day (not to exceed \$2,000) be assessed against Blaise W. Smith for this late filing.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED that a late fee of \$780 is assessed against Blaise W. Smith for failure to timely file his campaign finance disclosure report.

ORDER signed on the 8th day of July 2021 at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



Angela Newsom, Director
Campaign Finance & Lobbying Division



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
P.O. BOX 4368
BATON ROUGE, LA 70821
(225) 219-5600
FAX: (225) 381-7271
1-800-842-6630
www.ethics.la.gov

TO: "District Office" Candidates
FROM: Supervisory Committee on Campaign Finance Disclosure
RE: Primary Election - October 12, 2019

You are considered a "district office" candidate for purposes of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act (CFDA). This designation means:

- **Your contribution limit is \$2,500 for the primary election. This limit applies to any combination of contributions, in-kind contributions, and loans received from individuals and endorsements on bank loans.** This limit does not apply to the use of your personal funds, which must be reported as contributions or loans.
- The total amount of contributions that you may accept from all PACs for the primary and general election combined is **\$60,000.**
- You should read the enclosed Summary of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act that provides an outline of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act (CFDA).

If you are a candidate for the office of state representative or state senator, you are required to obtain one hour of ethics training and file the enclosed Form 105 no later than three (3) business days after the close of qualifying.

You are required to file the appropriate Tier level Personal Financial Disclosure statement within 3 business days after the close of qualifying period. This form was provided to you in a separate packet at qualifying.

You **MUST** file campaign finance reports and they **MUST** be filed electronically. Information is available on our website at www.ethics.la.gov to assist you with electronic filing. Deadlines for filing reports are as follows:

<u>Report</u>	<u>Form</u>	<u>Period report covers</u>	<u>Due date</u>
30-P	Candidate's Report	Jan. 1, 2019 thru Sept. 2, 2019	September 12, 2019
10-P	Candidate's Report	Sept. 3, 2019 thru Sept. 22, 2019	October 2, 2019
* EDE-P	Candidate's Election Day Expenditures	October 12, 2019	October 22, 2019
10-G	Candidate's Report	Sept. 23, 2019 thru Oct. 27, 2019	November 6, 2019

* **EDE-P report** is only filed if you have expenditures required to be reported. See Schedule of Reporting and Filing Dates for additional information.

Important note: Special (48-hour) reports may also be required from **September 23, 2019 through October 12, 2019** (See Special 48-hour report instructions on backside of Schedule of Reporting and Filing dates.)

If a candidate participates in the general election, the candidate will be required to file additional reports.

- You **must** file reports timely in order to avoid **automatic late fees** of \$60 per day for each day a required report is not timely filed. Reports are considered filed on the day they are filed electronically with this office.
- If you **withdraw** from the race or become **unopposed**, you must file the next Candidate's report due after the date you withdraw with the Secretary of State's Office or become unopposed. **YOU MUST FILE AT LEAST ONE REPORT.**

Questions about these materials should not be addressed to the official with whom you qualified. If you have campaign finance questions, please call 225-219-5600 or visit the website www.ethics.la.gov. Questions related to the booklets on Dual Office Holding and Election Offenses should be addressed to the Attorney General's Office (225) 326-6000 or visit their website www.ag.state.la.us.

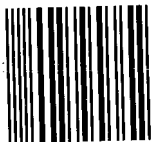
U.S. MAIL
CERTIFIED MAIL®

Blaise Smith Campaign
P O. Box 1015
Franklin, LA 70538

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Not
7-20-21

Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FCM LETTER
FRANKLIN, LA
70538
JUL 19, 21
AMOUNT

\$7.20

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